

WV Developmental Disabilities Council

Meeting Minutes

South Charleston Ramada Inn

October 26, 2004

Members Present: Christy Bishop, Craig Curtis, Ronald Dean, Jeannie Elkins, Kim Farley, Ginny Gattlieb, Sandy Haberbosch, John Hunneshagen, Jeff Marr, Clint Martin, Jane McCallister, Pat Moss, James Qualls, Karen Robinson, Terri Rodighiero, Clarice Hausch, Christina Smith, Luann Summers, Cheryl Vega, Jennifer Waybright, Mary Ellen Zeppuhar.

Members Absent: Lynn Boyer, Ulissa Dowell, Laura Helems, Mary Ann Jenkins, Frank Kirkland, Bobbie Reynolds, John David Smith, Pat Winston

Staff Present: Steve Wiseman, Jan Lilly Stewart, Linda Higgs, Jim Cremeans, Betsy Southall

Guests: Ruth Burgess, Ed Rugeley

Welcome, Introductions and Announcements:

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am by Jerri Stephens.

Members of the Council introduced themselves.

Ed Rugeley, Interim Executive Director, and Clarice Hausch of the WV Advocates were welcomed to the meeting. Clarice will serve as WVA's representative to the Council. It was also noted that Dr. Lynn Boyer is the new Director of the Office of Special Education and will be the Council member from that office. She informed Steve that she was unavailable for the October meeting, but she intends to be an active member of the Council.

Steve announced that Andrea Workman and Richard McGuffin recently resigned from the Council. He asked members to assist in finding new members to fill the vacant (2) positions. Steve said that it is especially important to recruit people with developmental disabilities.

Jan announced that the *Partners In Policymaking* program has a new website.

Cheryl read the Mission Statement of the Council.

Public Comments:

Steve said that an individual from the general public had contacted him about attending the Council meeting to make comments. He stated that today's and future meeting agendas will need to include allotted time for public comment. Council meeting schedules are advertised through a variety of public outlets.

No comments were made from the general public today.

Approval of the July 27, 2004 Minutes:

Mary Ellen Zeppuhar noted that her name was left off the July Minutes.

James made and Jennifer seconded a motion to accept the July Minutes as corrected.

Motion Carried.

New Business:

Legislative Priorities: Steve stated that the Council publishes Legislative Priorities every year. He said that the priorities will be introduced at this meeting. He asked members to review the material after the meeting and send feedback to Jan. He suggests that the Executive Committee be given the authority to make final edits and approval after reviewing all member comments. The deadline for comments would be November 15, 2004.

Jan read through the draft of the Legislative Priorities and opened the floor for discussion of the items.

Steve reviewed Commissioner Taylor's Report from the DHHR Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities stated that the Bureau recommended to the Governor its plan to take a required \$2.5 million cut (5.5% of its total budget). According to the report and recommendations, the Developmental Disabilities Division programs will sustain the most significant cut at the Bureau at \$2 million. The Alcohol and Substance Abuse Division will sustain a \$500,000 cut according to the report. Steve

said that the Family Support Program and supported employment programs funded by the Division will be discontinued. Another unspecified project funded through the Division would also be cut. Steve said that the Council priorities will have to be revamped to address ways to advocate for Legislative action to restore funding to vital programs.

Mary Ellen asked if there was someone at Family Support who would advocate for the continuation of the program. Steve stated that there is a Family Support Council which is addressing this issue also.

Jim asked if this was a proposal and if there was a formal process for taking such drastic cuts. Steve suggested to the Commissioner that they take a look at the entire BHHF budget. He feels that it should be a matter of public disclosure.

Sandy made and Craig seconded a motion to allow the Executive Committee to make final edits and approve the 2005 Legislative Priorities on behalf of the Council after final comments have been reviewed.

Luann Summers from DRS abstained.

Motion carried.

Craig Curtis stated that the current Medicaid billing and payment system contracted through Unisys is greatly flawed and needs to be addressed, perhaps by legislative action. Craig said that his agency, Potomac Highlands Guild, has fronted funds to specialized family care providers who are waiting on Medicaid reimbursement. Craig said that Medicaid reimbursement is regularly delayed for providers and has been for a long time. He feels that this issue could have serious, negative effects on community based services.

Jeannie stated that this issue has already affected the services her son is receiving.

Christy asked if there are other options to the Unisys system, and a discussion ensued.

Mary Ellen stated that she feels it is getting increasingly difficult to get private practice physicians to accept Medicaid because of the delay in payment.

Grants Solicitation Process: Steve stated that the Council's FY 2005 budget approved in July still includes up to \$160,000 for additional new grant projects. He said that since ADD funding is stable, the Council can pursue additional demonstration projects. Steve said that the last Call For Investment (CFI) announcement resulted in three new grant projects:

- WV PTI (Self-Advocacy Project): "WV People's Alliance"
- Marshall University: "Health Care Coordination through Medical Homes"; and
- ARC/Wood Co.: "Health and Wellth Project"

Steve reviewed the targeted objectives from the 2005 CFI Notice and the revised grant solicitation process that has been suggested by staff as well as Committees.

Karen Robinson began a discussion on how materials need to be marketed to make sure that people with developmental disabilities and families get the information they need. A discussion ensued about the possibility of a CD based training project.

Luann stated that she will be working with some school transition teams and that her association with them could open a channel of communication with those transition services. A discussion ensued.

Christina said that the Arc of Wood County held its first transitioning conference. She said it was very successful. She said that parents were expressing a real need for more information.

Jan stated that she feels that transitioning services are more of an education issue, and she feels that the CD training should be geared more towards adults who are entering the workforce.

Ginny began a discussion on the importance of combining transitioning services with competitive employment to ensure that people with developmental disabilities get the employment opportunities they need.

Steve suggested that the Council create workgroups to address specific issues and smaller scale activities, projects and training ideas rather than trying to discuss each at the full meeting.

After some discussion it was recommended that Council disseminate a new Call for Investments Notice limited to two issues: 1) school to work transition (Education) and 2) study of children's community crisis intervention services (Systems Coordination). Staff identified other strategies to pursue for other goals during FY 2005.

Clarice Hausch said that she feels there is a lack of positive behavioral supports (PBS) throughout the State. She suggested looking at that issue as well. Jerri, Ginny, and Jim offered information on State resources to the Council for PBS.

Sandy made and Jeff seconded a motion to proceed with the proposed revised grant solicitation process.

Motion carried.

Update on Council Activities:

- Steve stated that the *Strangers In The House* training held in September was very successful. Linda stated that the workshop focused on the dilemmas families and individuals, as well as providers, face when receiving in home services.
 - Christy and Jennifer stated that they both had very positive experiences at the workshop and felt that more trainings should be sponsored by the Council.
- Steve stated that the *Partner's In Policymaking* class has started. Jan stated that there are only 18 people participating and that the issue of recruitment needs to be examined. She asked Members to let her know if anyone has any ideas on recruitment techniques.
- Steve stated that the Council has been very involved in the WV Inclusion Campaign which is an initiative of the OBHS. He said the Council produced a booklet: *A Reporter's Guide: Reporting About People With Disabilities*. It addresses important issues for media professionals. A copy of the booklet was distributed to each Council

Member. The Council also produced the display for the Campaign which may be available for the January meeting.

Other Business:

Steve introduced Johnathon, the Council Office Manager. Members were advised to contact him with any questions they have regarding expense reimbursement.

Steve reviewed the reimbursement forms and change of address forms. He asked members to review their information and make any necessary changes.

Steve reminded the Council to respond to the meeting announcements. Staff needs to know who is coming to the meetings so that arrangements for rooms and meals can be made. This not only ensures that meetings will run more smoothly with everyone's needs being met, it also keeps the Council from incurring unnecessary expenses.

HSRI Health Survey Grant:

Linda introduced Dr. Mady Kimmich from Human Services Research Institute (HSRI). Dr. Kimmich gave a presentation of the results of the Health Access Survey Grant.

Olmstead Plan Update:

Steve introduced Tina Maher, state Olmstead Coordinator. He stated that the Council has been very active in helping to formulate the Plan. He said that the Council has always been involved in closing WV institutions, and helping individuals to live in the most integrated settings (as required in the *Olmstead* decision).

Tina gave an overview of the *Olmstead* decision. She gave a presentation on the state *Olmstead* Plan. She said that the Plan will be available to the public as soon as it is signed by the Governor.

Announcements:

Jerri announced that the 2005 meeting dates and locations have been set as follows:

January 25, 2005 - Charleston, WV

April 26, 2005 - Mineral Wells, WV

July 26 and 27, 2005 - Roanoke, WV - Stonewall Jackson Resort (retreat)

October 25, 2005 - Charleston, WV

Jeannie announced that there is an Associated Press (AP) reporter who is doing a story on Positive Behavior Support and is looking for families to interview.

Adjournment:

Sandy made and Ron seconded a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 pm.